

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 01565 041335Z

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ACTION FBO-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 SY-05 A-01 OC-05 CCO-00 /023 W

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R 041020Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4183

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

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ABIDJAN FOR RSO AND RBFO

DAKAR FOR FBO ENGINEER KARR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ABLD AFSP ASEC

SUBJECT: SECURITY MODIFICATIONS

REF: NOUAKCHOTT 1375

1. RSO WILLIAM CLARKE HAS JUST COMPLETED THOROUGH SECURITY SURVEY OF U.S. GOVERNMENT FACILITIES IN NOUAKCHOTT. CLARKE CONFIRMS OUR JUDGMENT THAT THERE ARE NUMBER OF URGENT MODIFICATIONS NEEDED TO BRING POST FACILITIES UP TO MINIMUM SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

2. TOP PRIORITY SHOULD BE REBUILDING OF PERIMETER WALL, OR AT LEAST THAT PORTION OF IT IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT EMBASSY CHANCERY. ORIGINAL WALL WAS BUILT IN EARLY 1960S WITH FOUR-INCH THICK CINDER BLOCK ON SHALLOW BASE IN SAND, SUPPORT EVERY TWELVE FEET BY REINFORCED CONCRETE POSTS. WALL IS FLIMSY AND IN PLACES SEVERELY CRACKED. IT COULD EASILY BE PUSHED DOWN BY SOMEONE TRYING TO GAIN ENTRY TO COMPOUND. EVEN THIS EFFORT WOULD NOT BE NECESSARY, HOWEVER, SINCE TOP OF WALL IN MANY PLACES IS ONLY THREE FEET ABOVE GROUND DUE TO NEW FILL RESULTING FROM CONSTRUCTION OF NEW ROAD ALONG EAST SIDE OF COMPOUND

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PAGE 02 NOUAKC 01565 041335Z

(REFTEL). RSO RECOMMENDS WALL OF AT LEAST NINE FEET IN

HEIGHT. EAST WALL ALONG NEW STREET AND ONLY SIX YARDS FROM CHANCERY BUILDING, IS PARTICULARLY BAD. IT IS SCARCELY FIVE FEET IN HEIGHT AND NEW STREET IS LITERALLY ONLY STONE'S THROW FROM SIX EMBASSY OFFICES (INCLUDING CONFERENCE ROOM AND AMBASSADOR'S), EMERGENCY GENERATOR HOUSING AND COMMUNICATIONS ANTENNAE. NOW COMPLETED GRADING AND COMPACTING OF ROAD BED RUNNING PARALLEL TO THIS WALL HAS ALREADY INCREASED FOOT TRAFFIC PAST WALL SIGNIFICANTLY. MORE IMPORTANTLY, IT HAS GREATLY FACILITATED POTENTIAL BOMB-THROWER'S ACCESS TO THIS SENSITIVE PART OF COMPOUND, AND AS SOON AS BASE COAT ASPHALT PAVING IS IN PLACE, PASSENGER IN SPEEDING CAR WILL EASILY BE ABLE TO LOB EXPLOSIVE DEVICE OVER PRESENT WALL.

3. COMPOUND SECURITY LIGHTING IS SECOND PRIORITY. WHILE SOME AREAS OF COMPOUND HAVE ADEQUATE LIGHTING, OTHER AREAS HAVE LIGHTING THAT IS INADEQUATE OR NONEXISTENT. DECORATIVE LIGHTING WAS RECOMMENDED TO ILLUMINATE FAIRLY LARGE AREA IN BACK OF AMBASSADOR'S RESIDENCE WHERE VERY LITTLE LIGHTING EXISTS AT PRESENT. AT SIDES AND REAR OF TENNIS COURT, FLOODLIGHTS (FOUR WOULD BE SUFFICIENT) AREA NEEDED TO LIGHT AN AREA WHERE THERE ARE NO LIGHTS NOW. IN ADDITION, ENTIRE BACK (NORTH) WALL AND PORTION OF WEST WALL HAVE NO LIGHTS AT ALL. WITH PRESENT LOW HEIGHT OF WALL, A PERSON COULD VERY EASILY ENTER COMPOUND AT NIGHT, COMPLETELY UNDETECTED. RSO RECOMMENDED INSTALLING SIX MERCURY VAPOR FLOODLIGHTS ON POLES. SOME REWIRING WILL BE NECESSARY TO REPLACE OLD, WORN WIRE AND TO CONSOLIDATE SOME OF MANY SWITCHES NOW NEEDED TO TURN ON LIGHTS INTO ONE MASTER OR SEVERAL SWITCHES. ESTIMATE \$5,200.

4. THIRD PRIORITY ITEM IS INSTALLATION OF WROUGHT IRON OR STEEL BAR GRILL COVERING GLASSED RECEPTION AREA OF FRONT ENTRANCE OF CHANCERY. AT PRESENT, ENTRY CAN EASILY BE GAINED THROUGH LARGE PANES OF GLASS. LOCAL CONTRACTOR HAS SUBMITTED BID BASED ON DESIGN APPROVED BY RSO. ESTIMATE \$3,160.

5. RSO ALSO STRONGLY RECOMMENDED INSTALLATION OF MYLAR ON ALL WINDOWS OF CHANCERY BORDERING EAST WALL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 NOUAKC 01565 041335Z

DISCUSSED PARA 2 ABOVE, ON WINDOWS IN RECEPTION AREA AND ALL WINDOWS IN AMBASSADOR'S OFFICE. ESTIMATE \$300.

6. OUTSIDE WALL OF BUILDING HOUSING GARAGE-WAREHOUSE, LDILM THEATER, MEDICAL UNIT AND FSL LOCKER ROOM FORMS PERIMETER WALL ON FRONT OF COMPOUND. IT IS SOLID WALL PIERCED OCCASIONALLY WITH SLIT WINDOWS EXCEPT IN FRONT OF MEDICAL UNIT WHERE IT BECOMES RECESSED ALCOVE FOUR

FEET DEEP WITH VERTICAL IRON BARS EMBEDDED IN FLOOR AND CEILING AT FRONT ON WALL LINE AND STEEL FRAME LARGE PANE WINDOWS AT REAR. THIS RECESSED ALCOVE INVITED TROUBLE, AND HAS BEEN ADJUDGED MOST VULNERABLE SEGMENT OF PERIMTER WALL BY MANY, INCLUDING GOVERNOR OF NOUAKCHOTT DURING SEARCH OF COMPOUND ON DAY OF BOMB THREAT. ALCOVE MUST BE BRICKED UP, REDUCING OPENING TO THREE OR FOUR SEALED SLIT WINDOWS. ESTIMATE \$2,300.

7. TWO INDOOR BATTERY POWERED EMERGENCY LIGHTS, ONE FOR C&R AND ONE FOR CENTRAL CORRIDOR, ARE NEEDED. ST ESTIMATE \$600.

8. VARIOUS LOCKS AND PEEP-HOLES SHOULD BE INSTALLED CHANCERY, AID AND PC TOGETHER WITH OTHER MINOR ALTERATIONS AND INSTALLATIONS. ESTIMATE \$150.

9. ACTION REQUESTED:

(A) IN ORDER TO PROVIDE LOCAL CONTRACTOR WITH EXPERT SPECIFICATIONS FOR REBUILDING OF WALL AND UPGRADING COMPOUND LIGHTING (PARAS 2 AND 3 ABOVE), WE WOULD BE GRATEFUL IF DEPARTMENT COULD DETAIL FBO ENGINEER JAMES KARR FROM DAKAR TO NOUAKCHOTT FOR TWO TO THREE DAYS. IF NECESSARY, WE CAN PROVIDE FUNDING FOR KARR'S TRAVEL.

(B) PROVIDE NECESSARY FUNDING ASAP FOR SY RECOMMENDED IMPROVEMENTS AND MODIFICATIONS FOR ITEMS LISTED PARAS 3 THROUGH 7. (COST ESTIMATE FOR PARA 2 WILL BE PROVIDED AFTER SPECIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN DRAWN UP BY QUALIFIED FBO OFFICIAL.) HANDYSIDE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 AUG 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NOUAKC01565
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750268-0667
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750885/aaaacxae.tel
Line Count: 145
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION FBO
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 NOUAKCHOTT 1375
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 27 AUG 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <27 AUG 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <11 DEC 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SECURITY MODIFICATIONS
TAGS: ABLD, AFSP, ASEC
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006